

Learning Resources and Technology

Newsletter

March 2002

Connecticut History Online

This website is a collaboration among the Connecticut Historical Society, UCONN's Thomas J. Dodd Research Center and Mystic Seaport. Currently, it contains about 14,000 photographs, drawings and prints about Connecticut history that may be searched or browsed in a variety of ways – by keyword, subject, creator, title or date. A classroom section has been created to help middle and high school teachers integrate resources into the curriculum. Connecticut History Online can be accessed at: <http://www.cthistoryonline.org> or as a link from iCONN, Connecticut's Digital Library, under "Additional Research Resources."

iCONN Training

This spring, the regional educational service centers will be offering training to public schools in using the iCONN databases. A schedule of workshops is available at: <http://www.iconn.org/staff/trainingsched.html#school>. In addition, the training manual being used in these workshops has been posted to the iCONN website and may be downloaded and used to facilitate training in districts. The address for the training manual is: <http://www.iconn.org/staff/training.html>

LSTA Grant RFP Issued

The State Library has announced the availability of LSTA funding for grants to libraries for the Fiscal Year 2002. Grant categories for which schools are eligible include:

- Adaptive Technology (\$3,000 to \$10,000)
- Resources Sharing Technology (\$3,000 to \$10,000)
- Children in Poverty (\$3,000 to \$20,000)

For descriptions of grant programs for which applications will be considered, visit the following website:

<http://www.cslib.org/lsta/index.htm>

To obtain a grant application, call Diane Billie at (860-566-2840) or toll free at (800) 253-7412. If you have questions about the programmatic aspects of your application, contact Sharon Brettschneider at (860) 757-6665.

Completed applications must be received by the State Library no later than 4:00 p.m. on May 3, 2002. State Library staff will review the applications and make recommendations to the State Library Board at its July meeting.

21st Annual Connecticut Storytelling Festival

Connecticut College will host the 21st Annual Storytelling Festival April 26-28, 2002. The festival features performances, family programs, workshops, story sharing and more. The Saturday evening concert will feature Cherokee storyteller, Gayle Ross and Brazilian mime-teller, Antonio Rocha.

Information about the entire program and registration fees can be found at:

<http://www.connstorycenter.org>

B!G Ideas

The State Department of Education recently published and distributed three new B!G Ideas booklets related to:

- Library Media and Technology
- Using the Internet
- Using iCONN, Connecticut's Digital Library

The booklets are part of a series of content specific ideas for increasing the challenge level of all students. Each one suggests easy and inexpensive ways teachers can help differentiate instruction in the classroom so that all students will be able to succeed and be academically challenged at the appropriate level. The booklets may be downloaded and copied from the SDE website:

http://www.state.ct.us/sde/dtl/curriculum/currgift_bigidea.htm

Building the Habit of Reading: How Public Librarians and School Library Media Specialists Support and Enhance Early Reading Initiatives

In 2000, the State Department of Education published *Connecticut's Blueprint for Reading Achievement*. It contains the conclusions and recommendations of the Early Reading Success Panel as well as components of a comprehensive, high-quality curriculum of reading instruction and a set of reading competencies for children in Kindergarten through Grade 3. The report also contains numerous references to the important role that libraries can and should play in local districts as they implement their early reading programs. "Building the Habit of Reading" is a monograph that highlights the portions of the Blueprint that have special relevance for school library media specialists and public librarians who work with young children. It also offers practical suggestions to help library media specialists and other librarians increase opportunities for children to read, motivate children to read and develop partnerships that will support early reading success.

The Blueprint is available at:

<http://www.state.ct.us/sde/dtl/curriculum/currbra.htm>

Building the Habit of Reading is available at:

<http://www.state.ct.us/sde/dtl/curriculum/currlibm.htm>

Nutmeg Books

Past winners of the Nutmeg Children's Books Award have been incorporated into the "What Do I Read Next?" iCONN readers advisory database. It can be accessed by selecting the

database, then clicking on "Award Winners and Top Picks" and selecting "Nutmeg Children's Book Award." The list will be updated twice a year.

For information about the current Nutmeg book nominees and events such as the 2002 awards ceremony on May 17, visit:

<http://www.biblio.org/nutmegaward>

The 2003 Nutmeg Children's Book Award nominees are:

- *Perloo the Bold* by Avi
- *Fever 1793* by Laurie Halse Anderson
- *Williwaw* by Tom Bodett
- *Heart of a Chief* by Joseph Bruchac
- *Because of Winn Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo
- *Elevator Family* by Douglas Evans
- *Flying Solo* by Ralph Fletcher
- *Star in the Storm* by Joan Hiatt Harlow
- *Dave at Night* by Gail Carson Levine
- *Homeless Bird* by Gloria Whelan

Applications Available for 2002-2003

Alternate Route for Library Media Specialists

Applications are now available on the ACES website for the *Advanced Alternative Program for Certification of Teachers to become Library Media Specialists*. Visit

<http://www.aces.k12.ct.us> and select Advanced Alternative Library Media Program.

To be eligible for the program, a teacher must hold a valid Connecticut teaching certificate, have worked full-time under the certificate for at least five of the previous eight years, have completed a Master's degree, have an interest and skills in using information and technology resources in the classroom and have a working e-mail address.

Additional information about the program, qualifications and the application form can be found at the above website. Applications must be postmarked by Tuesday, April 30, 2002. The newly selected cohort will begin their program in September, 2002.